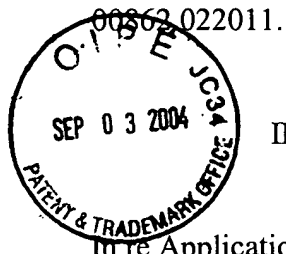


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MINORU KUSAKABE et al.

Application No.: 09/671,623

Filed: September 28, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD,
AND STORAGE MEDIUM

)
: Examiner: M. Nguyen
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: Group Art Unit: 2626
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: September 3, 2004
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SEP 08 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents and English-language abstracts therefor are enclosed.

Each of the listed foreign patent documents was cited in an Office Action issued March 22, 2004, in corresponding Japanese Application No. 11-279984. A copy of the Office Action is also enclosed. Applicants also point out that three documents cited in the Japanese Office Action, namely, JPA 10-304176, JPA 5-130376, and JPA 2-266390, are not listed on the Form PTO-1449, inasmuch as those documents were cited in previously filed

Information Disclosure Statements. U.S. Patent Nos. 6,002,841 and 5,568,570 are believed to correspond to JPA 9-051425 and JPA 8-211857, respectively.

Because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed subsequent to the mailing of a first Action on the merits, no fee is believed due in connection with this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment necessitated by this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Didas', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Michael J. Didas
Registration No. 55,112

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MJD/ksp

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

SEP 03 2004

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Submitted to the PTO: September 3, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.

00862.022011

APPLICATION NO.

09/671,623

APPLICANTS

MINORU KUSAKABE et al.

FILING DATE

September 28, 2000

GROUP

2626

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,568,570	10/1996	Rabbani	382	238	
	6,002,841	12/1999	Tanioka	395	109	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
8-211857	08/1996	JP			ABSTRACT
9-051425	02/1997	JP			ABSTRACT
11-069133	03/1999	JP			ABSTRACT
2000-287062	10/2000	JP			ABSTRACT

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

MJD/ksp

Sheet 1 of 1

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